

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01692 161217Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 ONY-00 /011 W  
-----041303 161221Z /10 R  
O 161130Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7010

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1692

FOR NEA/IRN: NAAS FROM AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI IR  
SUBJ: GENERAL MOGHAREBI

REF: STATE 040289

1. YOUR PRUDENCE IS APPRECIATED. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE DRAFT RESPONSE CONTAINED PARA THREE OF REFTEL COULD BE SLIGHTLY REWORDED AND STILL MAKE THE SUBSTANTIVE POINTS COVERED IN YOUR DRAFT. OUR EFFORT IN THAT DIRECTION IS IN PARAS TWO THROUGH SIX BELOW.

2. TEX OF SUGGESTED REPLY. QUOTE: DEAR MR. HAMILTON: THE SECRETARY HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR FEBRUARY 2 LETTER REGARDING THE JACK ANDERSON COLUMN OF THAT DATE. THIS RESPONSE HAS BEEN COORDINATED WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AS YOU REQUESTED.

3. THE PORTION OF THE ANDERSON COLUMN WHICH YOU HIGHLIGHTED MAKES THREE ASSERTIONS, NAMELY:

--AN IRANIAN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER;  
--PROVIDED AWACS SECRETS TO THE SOVIETS; AND  
--WAS SUBSEQUENTLY EXECUTED.

THE FIRST TWO ASSERTIONS ARE NOT TRUE; THE THIRD IS  
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ACCURATE.

4. MAJOR GENERAL MOGHAREBI, THE IRANIAN MILITARY OFFICER WHO WAS EXECUTED THE END OF LAST YEAR FOR SPYING FOR THE SOVIET UNION, WAS NOT AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER. MOGHAREBI WAS DEPUTY CHIEF OF J-5 (PLANS, PROGRAMS AND BUDGET) OF THE SUPREME COMMANDER'S STAFF.

THE SUPREME COMMANDER'S STAFF IS NOT INVOLVED IN IRANIAN ARMS PROCUREMENT. THEREFORE, MOGHAREBI WOULD NOT HAVE HAD ACCESS AS A RESULT OF HIS DUTIES TO ARMS PROCUREMENT INFORMATION.

5. WITH RESPECT TO AWACS IN PARTICULAR, THE LETTERS OF OFFER CONTAINING DETAILED INFORMATION WERE NOT PROVIDED TO THE IRANIAN VMOW (THE ORGANIZATION CHARGED WITH PROCUREMENT) UNTIL AFTER CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED SALE BY CONGRESS HAD BEEN COMPLETED IN EARLY OCTOBER 1977. BY THAT TIME, MAJOR GENERAL MOGHAREBI HAD BEEN ARRESTED. THE FIRST AWACS WILL NOT BE DELIVERED TO IRAN UNTIL 1980.

6. YOUR FEBRUARY 2 LETTER OONTAINS A SECOND, MORE GENERAL QUESTION: QUOTE PRECISELY WHAT SECRETS ON WHAT SYSTEMS MAY HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE SOVIETS. END QUOTE. THE IRANIAN GOVERNMENT KEPT US INFORMED OF THE ARREST, TRIAL AND CONVICTION OF MOGHAREBI, AND HAS COOPERATED WITH US IN TRYING TO ASSESS WHETHER HE COMPROMISED ANY SENSITIVE US DATA. THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IS CURRENTLY CARRYING OUT A STUDY TO ASSESS WHAT IF ANY, COMPROMISE OF SENSITIVE TECHNICAL DATA MAY HAVE OCCURRED. THIS CAREFUL AND DETAILED REVIEW WILL NOT BE COMPLETED FOR SEVERAL MORE MONTHS. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU WISH US TO BE IN FURTHER TOUCH  
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WITH YOU WHEN THE REVIEW IS COMPLETED. SINCERELY,  
DOUGLAS J. BENNETT. END TEXT.  
SULLIVAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, ESPIONAGE, MILITARY PERSONNEL, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, ALLEGATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014